

Brotherton re-elected to state seat

By Casey Hane
Staff writer

Despite Democratic inroads made nationally in Tuesday's election, Republican state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton of Farmington said he was "pleased" with his victory, and "delighted" with voter turnout.

"I was really very pleased," he said. "This election has been such a confusing one . . . It was hard to

predict what was going to happen. There were no clear patterns."

Brotherton beat Democratic challenger Michael Breshgold, also of Farmington, by a margin of more than 24-1 for a seventh term as state representative in the 69th District.

Official vote tallies in Oakland County totaled 19,114 for Brotherton and 7,414 for Breshgold.

It was a bittersweet election for

Breshgold, chairman of the Farmington Democratic Club and local campaign coordinator for Gov. James Blanchard's highly successful re-election effort.

He is pleased with the Democratic turnaround in the state and across the nation but disappointed with his defeat.

BROTHERTON CAME up the winner in the cities of Farmington

and Farmington Hills, where he carried 2,719 and 12,444 votes, respectively. Breshgold had 927 votes in Farmington and 5,327 in Farmington Hills.

In Southfield Township and the villages of Franklin, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills, Brotherton was also the leader, carrying 3,911 votes to Breshgold's 1,160.

Dealing in a "highly Republican" district, Breshgold felt comfortable with his campaign. "I ran a positive campaign and stressed the issues and concerns," he said. "I put a scare into Sandy Brotherton." Although presently undecided, he said he may run again for the seat.

The ticket-splitting in the district hurt his chances, Breshgold said. He felt many Republicans that voted for Blanchard "made up for it by voting Republican in other races."

Of the Blanchard win, Breshgold

said he was "elated."

"They did go for him in an overwhelming way," Breshgold said. "Hard-core Republicans were turned off by the (William) Lucas candidacy. The big reason was that Gov. Blanchard has done a good job for the state."

Brotherton, 63, has represented the Farmington area in the state House for 12 years. He has served on the Public Health Committee, the Economic Development and Energy Committee, the Public Utilities Committee and the City Government Committee. He also serves on a special organ transplant policy committee.

Brotherton is married to Evonne Brotherton and has two children.

Breshgold, 32, handles hospital accounts for Key Pharmaceuticals. He is married to Wendy Breshgold and has two children. They have lived in the district for five years.

"People in this area value their right to vote," Brotherton added. "They are thoughtful voters."



W.V. Brotherton

Broomfield tops Kohut

Veteran Republican Congressman William Broomfield was re-elected to the 18th district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday.

He carried the race by a more than 3-1 margin against his Democratic challenger, Troy attorney Gary Kohut. Broomfield has held the seat since 1956.

Votes cast in the district, which includes parts of Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties, brought Broomfield 109,999 votes. Kohut received 39,132 votes. Counts are unofficial.

The district covers the Observer & Eccentric cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills, Rochester, Troy, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham; the townships of Bloomfield, West Bloomfield and parts of Southfield; and the villages of Franklin, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills.



William Broomfield

Oakland County voters cast 96,740 votes for Broomfield and 32,269 for Kohut giving Broomfield a 3-1 advantage. In Macomb County, Broomfield received 8,350 votes and Kohut 4,872. In Livingston County 4,939 votes were cast for Broomfield and 1,990 for Kohut.

Broomfield, 64, served in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate before running for his current seat. He is married to Jane Broomfield and they have three daughters. The Michigan native attended Royal Oak Public Schools and Michigan State University.

Broomfield considers the federal deficit the toughest assignment for Congress during the coming year. "I believe everything else pales against the issue of trying to control our deficit," he said, "because that deficit impacts our economic and social well-being."

Kohut, 33, received his law degree from the University of Detroit after majoring in political science at Grand Valley State College. He is working on a master's degree in pub-

lic administration from the University of Michigan.

Kohut laid the groundwork in this election for future Congressional races; analysts predict this will be Broomfield's last race.

He is married to Carol Kohut and is active with the Oakland County Democratic Club, the Michigan Democratic Party and the Economic Club of Detroit.

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